and body of the snake struck me so forcibly, and appeared so extraordinary, that I forthwith proceeded to ascertain the exact relative proportions, and found them as follow. The snake was twelve feet nine inches long, transverse diameter of jaw inside three and a half inches, neck round nine inches, greatest girth of body at thickest part, when pig was out, eleven and a half inches. The pig weighed thirty-seven catties and a half, or rather more than fifty pounds, was a good three-fourths-grown young sow, and lay apparently without a mark of violence upon its body—not a hair ruffled, legs unbroken; indeed old Isaac Walton never dealt more tenderly with his frog than the Boa had seemingly done with young piggy. Upon closer examination it was however discovered that the ribs were broken; but as the animal remained in its place of sepulture some hours, sufficient gases had been generated to rectify the effects of the crushing and restore piggy to her pristine comeliness of shape; the contrast therefore was the more striking; but still it is quite inconceivable how the animal was ever swallowed: how the head of the pig passed the jaws of the snake, would I think puzzle a conjuror to determine; and how the snake felt I leave to the consideration of some hopeless dyspeptic. So distended were the walls of the abdomen by the unusual meal, that the whole pig could be seen plainly through them; they became diaphanous and thin as gold-beater's skin. The vitality of the monster equalled his voracity, for, despite the numberless blows of clubs on its head, two hours after the pig had been cut out of the abdomen, I saw the tail firmly coil itself around a stake. Boa met with poetical justice, for, the same evening, he descended into the very little less ravenous maws of some Chinese, who looked upon the flesh as something exceedingly piquant and appetizing, and eagerly they strove amongst themselves who should possess the largest share of it.—*From the Journal of the Indian Archipelago and Eastern Asia for Feb.* 1848.

Observations on the Nummulites. By Messrs. Jolie and Leymerie.

In this note the authors have presented the principal results of their researches upon the Nummulites, and which it is intended shall form the subject of a detailed memoir in connexion with some researches upon the *Bryozoa*, Ehrenberg, *Foraminifera*, D'Orbigny, contained in the fossiliferous deposits of the subpyrenean basin.

The fossils under consideration are arranged by all naturalists among animal productions, and are looked upon as a kind of chamber analogous to shells, but a variety of opinions prevail with respect to the form and organization of the animal of Nummulites, and the position which it occupied in relation to these paradoxical shells. Linnæus first arranged this animal among the Madrepores, subsequently he made a Medusa of it, and finally classified it among the cephalopodous Mollusca having a polythalamian outer shell. While referring the animal of the Nummulite to this order of Mollusca, Deluc, Lamarck and Cuvier considered that its shell was internal*, while Bruguière considered it to be partly contained in the last chamber

* It was impossible for G. Cuvier to adopt any other opinion, since he defined the Nummulites as shells exhibiting outwardly a lenticular form

of the shell like the Nautili and Ammonites. Persuaded that a careful investigation of the structure of the Nummulites could alone decide respecting the form of the animal which constructed these singular habitations, we set earnestly about it, and after frequently repeated observations and sections, fractions, sawings and grindings, and having examined with the microscope a multitude of Nummulites as hard as quartz or the most compact limestone, we had the good fortune to meet with a number from which we might remove successively the circumvolutions of the spire by means of a kind of cleavage, which has led us to conclude :—

1. That the *Nummulites* were external multispiral shells with enveloping convolutions, and at the same time polythalamian.

2. The sides of these shells were perforated in a similar manner to what is observed in the *Rotalia* and *Nonionina*.

3. It was through these holes that the numerous tentacula or pseudopoda with which the animal was provided were exserted (organs of prehension or locomotion).

4. The septa of the chambers leave a triangular aperture between them and the last-formed convolution of the spire by means of which they all communicate.

5. All the chambers were occupied at the same time by the multisegmented body of the animal.

6. The several segments were connected with one another by a tube or sipho, which at the same time fulfils the office of digestive canal.

7. The animal increased by producing new segments which were added in the same plane to those previously existing. These segments were soon enveloped by the calcareous matter which they secreted, like the mantle of the Mollusca.

8. The inhabitant of the Nummulites was neither a Polyp nor a Medusa, nor an Annelide nor a Cephalopodous mollusk, but one of those long-misunderstood creatures for which D'Orbigny created the name of Foraminifera.—*Comptes Rendus, Oct.* 25, 1847.

Description of the Caligus Strömii. By W. Baird, M.D., F.L.S. &c.

In 1845 I found upon a salmon at Berwick a species of *Caligus* which, at that time, I thought was new. Upon more careful examination I found it approached very near the *Caligus Vespa* of M. Edwards, differing however considerably in size and other more minute distinctions. In the Copenhagen Transactions, vol. x. p. 23, and t. 7. f. 1–6, the celebrated Ström has described and figured a species of *Caligus* under the name of "Laxe luus" or salmon louse, and which he shortly defines "Monoculus thorace abdomineque ovato, cauda lobata." It is evidently the same as the specimens I found upon the salmon of the Tweed, and as Ström is the only author who seems to have noticed it, I have named it after him.

without any apparent aperture and internally a spiral cavity divided by septa into a number of minute chambers, but without a sipho (Règne Animal, iii. p. 22) ; which is the same thing as saying, that these chambers had no communication with each other nor with the exterior. From our examination of these fossils we have been led to admit the very opposite.